

## Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0021  
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 GRENADA 0023

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y SECTION INFO (1 OF 3 VICE 1 OF 2)

FOR S/PRS - TRATTNER

USIA/IPS/PL

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TAGS: OAS GJ  
SUBJ: SECRETARY VANCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE - JUNE 16, 1977

HEREWITH TEXT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN UPON  
DEPARTURE FROM OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN GRENADA, JUNE 16, 1977.

SECRETARY VANCE:

GOOD MORNING LAIES AND GENTLEMEN. WHY DON'T WE JUST  
START IN AND I WILL TAKE THE FIRST QUESTION. YES.

Q: IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT BREZHNEV'S NEW AQUISITION OF  
GREATER POWER WILL CHANGE THE NATURE OF U.S. SOVIET RELATIONS?

A: I DONT' THINK THIS IS GOING TO CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIPS  
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BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS ANTICIPATED  
THAT THIS WOULD BE THE RESULT, AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WILL  
CONTINUE ON THE SAME COURSE AND HOPEFULLY IMPROVE IN THE  
PERIOD AHEAD.

Q: POLEMICS ARE GOING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BETWEEN THE US

AND THE SOVIET UNION. IT SEEMS WE HOPE FOR REVERSING THIS TREND IN TRADE, AND IN ATMOSPHERICS MOST ESPECIALLY. DO YOU SEE HOPES FOR REACHING A STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION BY OCTOBER 3 WHEN THE DEADLINE RUNS OUT?

A: IT'S A LOT OF QUESTIONS; LET ME TRY TO ANSWER ONE BY ONE. LET ME START WITH THE LATTER QUESTION FIRST - DO I SEE HOPES OF REACHING AN ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE SALT TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION BEFORE OCTOBER WHEN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT RUNS OUT? I SIMPLY HAVE NO IDEA THAT IS POSSIBLE, BUT AS I HAVE SAID ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, I DON'T THINK WE OUGHT TO FEEL OURSELVES UNDER DEADLINE. I THINK THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE REACH AN AGREEMENT AHT IS A SOUND AGREEMENT, THAT IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE TO BOTH, AND WHICH WILL BE LASTING AND WILL NOT HAVE AMBIQUITIES WHICH WOULD LEAD TO CHARGES OF BAD FAITH IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, I FEEL WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH PATIENCE AND PERSEVERENCE TO WORK OUT JUST THAT KIND OF AN AGREEMENT AND NOT TO FEEL OURSELVES UNDER ANY DEADLINE.

INSOFAR AS THE ISSUE OF TRADE IS CONCERNED, I DID SAY THAT I THINK TRADE IS AN IMPORTANT UNDERPINNING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NOT MADE THE KIND OF PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE THAT I WOULD HAVE HOPED. THE TRADE AS ANTICIPATED FOR NEXT YEAR WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS. AGAIN, HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THAT THIS MEANS THAT WE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO PRESERVE TO TRY TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BECAUSE I THINK IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT AFFECTS THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE QUESTION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION. AT THE PRESENT UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME, THAT IS PRECLUDED BY A CONGRESSIONAL AMENDMENT, AND AS I LOOK AT THE SITUATION NOW ON CAPITAL HILL, I THINK IN THE COIMATE WHICH EXISTS, THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE THAT AMENDMENT REMOVED. THEREFORE, I THINK IT IS NOT LIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, I WOULD HOPE THAT IN TIME THIS COULD BE DONE.

FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE, I HOPE VERY MUCH THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WILL IMPROVE. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT, AND NOT ONLY FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAT THAT RELATIONSHIP AND THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING IT IMPROVE; AND FROM OUR STANDPOINT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO TRY TO IMPROVE THAT RELATIONSHIP, AND WE HOPE THAT WOULD BE RECIPROCATED.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: LET ME TALK ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN A BROADER FRAMEWORK THAN THIS MEETING AND THE BILATERAL TALKS.

I THINK WHAT IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE, WHICH IS COMING OUT AT THESE OAS MEETINGS, IS THE ATTENTION WHICH IS BEING PAID TO THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THAT ISSUE IS DOMINATING THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE OAS ITSELF, AND IN THE BILATERAL WHICH EACH OF US IS HAVING.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT WHATEVER WAY THE ACTUAL CONCRETE STEPS EVENTUATE FROM THIS MEETING, THAT THE SENSITIVITY OF ALL OF THE PARTIES AT THIS MEETING HAS BEEN GREATLY RAISED, AND I THINK THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. THEREFORE, I FEEL THAT THE FACT THAT HIS HAS BEEN DONE INDICATES A VERY IMPORTANT STEP FOR THIS ORGANIZATION AND FOR THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT ONLY IN THIS AREA, BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE?

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A: THE SUBJECT OF BELIZE IS ONE WHICH IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT IS ONE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH CARE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN THIS MEETING THAT ISSUE. IT HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED IN THE GENERAL DISCUSSION. NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH RESPECT TO HOW TO SOLVE THAT PROBLEM, BUT THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING IN SPIRIT THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED, AND I GET A FEELING THAT ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OAS WILL WISH TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A PROMPT AND SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

Q: MR. SECRETARY HAVE YOU SOUGHT OR RECEIVED ANY ASSURANCE FROM CHILE, URUGUAY, OR ARGENTINA THAT THEY'LL RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A: IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH I HAVE HAD WITH SOME OF THE PARTIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE OAS, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO WHO THEY ARE, I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT STEPS ARE INTENDED WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES; WHAT THEY ARE SENSITIVE TO THESE PROBLEMS; AND WE SHALL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. I DO NOT WANT TO GO SPECIFICALLY INTO NAMES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF ANY KIND OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY ACTS UNDER THE RIO TREATY TO RESOLVE THE BELIZE DISPUTE?

A: THAT HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN THESE MEETINGS. THE MEETINGS WILL BE GOING ON AS YOU KNOW FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS, AND WHETHER THAT WILL COME UP, I JUST DON'T KNOW. AT THIS POINT, PEOPLE ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF SEEING WHETHER SOME SORT OF BILATERAL MEDIATION CAN HELP IN SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS.

Q: SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HAS IMPROVED?

A: YES, I THINK THAT THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS IMPROVED IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES. THERE ARE, AS I INDICATED, STATE-UNCLASSIFIED

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MENTS THAT FURTHER POSITIVE STEPS MAY BE EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, I MUST SAY THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PROGRESS, AND INDEED, IN ONE OR TWO CASES THEERE MAY HAVE BEEN REGRESSION. IF SO, I WOULD SAY THE ANSWER IS A MIX, BUT I WOULD POINT OUT WHAT I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE: THAT I THINK YOU HAVE TO MEASURE PROGRESS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. YOU CAN'T MEASURE IT OVER THE SHORT RUN. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE: THE FACT THAT THIS IS A UNIVERSAL ISSUE THAT AFFECTS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, NOT ONLY IN SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, IN REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE. AND I THINK THIS IS BEING DONE. SO I THINK WHAT WE MUST DO IS MEASURE THIS OVER THE LONGER PERIOD OF TIME, CONTINUE TO WORK TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN IN CASES WHERE PROBLEMS ARE RAISED WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, AND THEN SEE WHAT HAPPENS OVER THE LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

Q: DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE CHANGED ANY MINDS OR WON ALLIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS HERE AT THIS CONFERENCE?

A: I FOUND A GOOD DEAL OF SUPPORT FOR MANY OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ESPousing, BUT I WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE THIS AS ONLY THE UNITED STATES. THERE ARE MANY OTHER NATIONS WHO SHARE THE VIEWS THAT WE SHARE IN HUMAN RIGHTS, SO I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THIS A U.S. THING. THERE IS WIDE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN DIGINTY, AND THE NEED TO TAKE STEPS TO PRESERVE AND FOSTER THEM.

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

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FM USDEL GRENADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0022

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Q: DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE PLANS TO STOP THE FLOW OF PIPELINE  
MILITARY SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA?

A: THE SITUATION FOR THIS YEAR HAS BEEN DETERMINED, AND AS YOU  
KNOW, WE MADE A CUT EARLIER THIS YEAR. I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS  
SOME LEGISLATION PROPOSED YESTERDAY ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE,  
AND I DON'T KNOW THAT THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THAT HAS BEEN.  
THAT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE TOTAL SUPPLY, BUT I THINK AS IT  
FINALLY CAME OUT, IT PROVIDED THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN  
UNTIL THE FALL OF 1978. WHETHER SUCH ACTION WOULD THEN BE  
TAKEN WOULD DEPEND ON THE PROGRESS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE AT THAT  
TIME. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS IN THAT PIECE OF  
LEGISLATION. I HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO SEE IT.

Q: THERE SEEMS TO BE A SPLIT IN THE OAS, WITH AT LEAST  
A HALF A DOZEN OR MORE MEMBERS TAKING ISSUE WITH YOUR POSITION.  
WERE THESE THE INTENDED RESULTS, OR HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT?

A: I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE ISSUE  
OUT ON THE TABLE AND HAVE IT REALLY DISCUSSED. ONLY THROUGH  
DISCUSSION CAN WE HOPE TO MAKE PROGRESS. THAT HAS BEEN THE RESULT  
HERE, AND I THINK IT WILL CONTINUE LONG AFTER THIS MEETING.  
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Q: AS YOU POINT OUT, THE ISSUE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS DOMINATED  
THE DISCUSSIONS HERE AND WILL DO SO IN BELGRADE. HAS IT MADE  
THE CONDUCT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY MORE COMPLICATED?

A: I THINK EMPHASIS ON IT HAS MADE IT MORE COMPLICATED,  
BUT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT BE DONE BECAUSE IT IS A  
COMPLICATED BUSINESS. BUT IT'S A FUNDAMENTAL ONE, AND THEREFORE  
WHETHER IT'S COMPLICATED OR NOT IS NOT THE IMPORTANT ISSUE.  
THE IMPORTANT ISSUE IS ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS IN THE RIGHT  
DIRECTION? ARE WE BEGINNING TO STEER A COURSE WHICH IS A PROPER  
COURSE, AND I THINK THAT THIS IS HOPEFULLY THE CASE.

Q: VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY  
AFFECTED BY GSP EXCLUSION. WILL THERE BE ANY RESOLUTION THIS  
YEAR?

A: I DON'T KNOW; WE ARE ALL WAITING TO SEE THAT HAPPENS IN  
THE OPEC MEETING. I MYSELF DON'T KNOW AT THIS POINT WHAT THE  
RESULT WILL BE. I HAVE HEARD RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE  
MAY BE SOME PRICE INCREASES COMING OUT IN THIS NEXT MEETING,  
BUT THAT IS JUST A RUMOR AT THIS POINT. I HONSTLY DON'T  
KNOW WHAT THE RESULT IS GOING TO BE.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU NO LONGER REGARD VENEZUELA  
AND ECUADOR AS HAVING SPECIAL STATUS BECAUSE OF THEIR RESTRAINTS  
THE FIRST TIME AROUND WHEN THE OPEC PRICES INCREASED?

A: WELL, INSOFAR AS THE GENERAL SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES IS CONCERNED,  
THEY WERE COVERED BY THE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS A BLOCKING  
RESOLUTION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY TOOK THE POSITION THAT THEY  
TOOK.

Q: ON THE PANAMA CANAL, ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A PANAMA  
CANAL TREATY BY THE END OF THE SUMMER?

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A: ON THE CANAL SITUATION, WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS. THERE ARE  
SOME COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT ISSUES WHICH STILL REMAIN TO BE  
RESOLVED. I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD BE  
REACHED BY THE END OF THE SUMMER. I DON'T WANT TO PREDICT  
THAT IS GOING TO COME ABOUT BECAUSE THE QUESTIONS REMAINING  
STILL ARE TOUGH ONES, BUT I HOPE WITH GOOD WILL AND HARD WORK  
ON BOTH SIDES THAT WE CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT BY THE END OF  
THE SUMMER.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT READING ON THE MOOD OF THE SENATE  
ON THE TREATY?

A: WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK IN THE SENATE. I THINK IF ONE HAD  
TO COUNT THE VOTES AS OF TODAY, IT WOULD BE VERY CLOSE, AND I AM  
NOT SURE WE WOULD HAVE THE VOTES. I HOPE BY THE TIME IT COMES  
TO A VOTE, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN CLEARLY TO THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE WHY IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES  
TO HAVE THIS NEW AGREEMENT, AND HAVING DONE THAT, WE WILL GET  
THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR RATIFICATION.

Q: WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER ASKED MR. ANDREW YOUNG TO PAY MORE  
ATTENTION TO THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA, WAS HE MERELY  
CREATING A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR THIS CONFERENCE, OR WAS HE  
REALLY GIVING EXPRESSION OF THE POSITIVE INTENTIONS OF THE  
U.S. TOWARDS THIS REGION?

A: CLEARLY THE LATTER, ANDY YOUNG IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ABLE AND GIFTED MAN. I THINK THAT HIS WORK IN DEALING WITH THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE AND VERY USEFUL. CERTAINLY IN THE SUGGESTION THE PRESIDENT WAS MAKING HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE BROAD SWEEP, AND IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CONFERENCE.

Q: IN THE SPANISH ELECTIONS TODAY IT LOOKS LIKE THE CENTER AND CENTER-LEFT PARTIES HAVE A MAJORITY. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS AT THIS STAGE?

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A: MY COMMENT IS THAT I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN SPAIN. THE FACT THAT SPAIN HAS BEEN ABLE TO MOVE FROM AN AUTHORITARIAN RULE TO THE POINT WHERE IT CAN HAVE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IS A MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FACT. I THINK THAT THE GREATEST TRIBUTE IS DUE TO THE KING FOR HAVING BEEN ABLE TO LEAD HIS COUNTRY TO THIS POINT. I THINK THAT HE HAS LED THEM WITH SKILL AND CARE ALONG THE ROAD TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THAT ALL OF US WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD CAN BE HEARTENED BY THIS.

Q: A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SEEM TO BE MAKING AN ISSUE OF LINKING TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS, A LINKAGE YOU SPECIFICALLY REJECTED IN YOUR SPEECH. DO YOU EXPECT A RESOLUTION LINKING THOSE TWO WILL EMERGE FROM THIS CONFERENCE, AND IF SO, WOULD IT DEFLATE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO HERE?

A: NO, NOT AT ALL. I THINK TERRORISM IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. IT IS A PROBLEM THAT HAS TO BE DEALT WITH. I THINK IT IS INCORRECT, HOWEVER, TO TAKE A POSITION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT ONE CAN COMBAT TERRORISM BY COUNTER-TERRORISM. I THINK THAT IS WRONG AND WILL PRODUCE QUITE THE OPPOSITE RESULT. HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT TO MINIMIZE THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM WHICH I THINK MUST BE DEALT WITH AND MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY.

Q: RECENTLY YOU MET IN PARIS WITH MINISTER AZEREDO OF BRAZIL, AND YOU HAVE SEEN HIM AGAIN HERE. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT?

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A: YES, WE HAVE HAD ONE MEETING WITH HIM IN PARIS AND  
SECONDLY WE HAVE HAD THE VISIT OF MRS. CARTER TO BRAZIL IN  
WHICH SHE HAD VERY USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH  
PRESIDENT GEISEL. I WAS ABLE TO HAVE SOME FURTHER DISCUSSIONS  
ON WHOLE VARIETY OF MATTERS. MANY OF THEM DEALT WITH THE  
SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS CONFERENCE. WE TOUCHED UPON SOME OTHER  
BILATERAL ISSUES, AND I HAVE AGREED TO GO TO BRAZIL AT THE END  
OF OCTOBER FOR A MEETING. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A MEMORANDUM  
OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BRAZIL WHICH PROVIDES FOR RECIPROCAL VISITS  
BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. OUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH BRAZIL IS A VERY IMPORTANT ONE, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO GOING  
THERE IN THE FALL TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF  
ONGOING MATTERS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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## Message Attributes

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